19th Airlift Wing

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U.S. AIR FORCE

Fatality Briefing

Team Little Rock – Home of Combat Airlift

Deceased Member

- 19 y.o. Male A1C
- Date/Time of Mishap: 24 Sep 08/1630L
- Type Of Mishap: PMV2 (motorcycle) fatality
- Assignment: Andrews AFB, MD
- Marital Status: Single
- Hobbies: Playing Rock Band Video Game
- Best Described as: Quiet Airman; Everyone Enjoyed Working With Him
- Time in service: 13 months
- No administrative or disciplinary problems

Incident

- Rode 20 miles in 30 minutes with Two Other Motorcycle Drivers (Both More Experienced)
- 1610 –1615: Witness Stated Three Riders "Not Acting Reckless"
  - 1615 - Three Riders Proceed onto On-ramp in Formation
  - No Problems Noted Prior to On-ramp
- Deceased rider looked "Very Uncomfortable" and "Wobbly" in First Turn of On-ramp; Wobbling Entering Third Turn, Speed 30-40 MPH
- Locked Rear Brake

Incident

- **Deceased Skidded Approx. 64 feet;**
- **Front Wheel Hit Curb and Concrete Mound at 27 MPH; Vaulted Forward, End-Over-End**
- **Deceased and Motorcycle Traveled 19 Feet into Oncoming Traffic**
- **Struck by Civilian Truck Traveling Apprx. 65 MPH**
- **Civilian Truck Struck Guardrail, Overturned onto Left Side**
- **Civilian Witness Called 911**

Mishap Scene

Non-contributing Factors

- Weather –Clear Day, no Precipitation
- Personal Situation –Nothing Negative
- Road Condition –Dry, Excellent Surface
- Alcohol/Drugs –Toxicology Test Negative
- Safety Equipment –Wearing Proper PPE
- Driving Record –No Points/Restrictions (Except No Motorcycle Endorsement on Driver's License)
- Fatigue –Working Day Shift/Day Off
- Medical History –Nothing Significant

Causal Factors

- ***CAUSE: Deceased Locked Rear Brake at Approximately 30-40 MPH; Skidded Approximately 64 Feet, Attempted to Regain Control, Unable To Do So.***

- ***CAUSE: Deceased Failed to Control Motorcycle; Struck Concrete Curb and Concrete Mound, Vaulted Into Oncoming Traffic.***

Other Findings of Significance

- **Vehicle Condition**
  - **Purchased Motorcycle from Private Seller**
  - **Motorcycle Had Been Dropped on Side by Previous Owner; Damaged Fairings**
  - **Mechanical Issues**
  - **Broken/Repaired Right Side Foot Stay – Approx. 17 Aug 08**
  - **Radiator Leak –Approx. 4 Sep 08**
  - **Tires -Six Years Old, Worn But Not Bald**
  - **Nail in Front Tire –Date Unknown, repaired by deceased on 23 Sep 08**

Other Findings of Significance

- **Inexperience/Overconfidence in Ability**
  - **Previous Experience -Rode Family's Sport Bikes**
  - **Never Owned a Motorcycle**
  - **Bought Large, Very Powerful Motorcycle –"I can handle it"**
  - **Dropped this Motorcycle Twice in 3 Week Period**
  - **No Motorcycle Endorsement on License**
  - **Did not Complete Motorcycle Safety Course**
  - **Owned Motorcycle for 40 Days; in Possession for 25 Days**

Other Findings of Significance

- **Supervision**
  - **Four Supervisors Knew Deceased Had Motorcycle**
  - **One Did Not Talk to Him About the Motorcycle Safety Course**
  - **Three Told Him He Needed the Course, But Did Not Follow Up**

- **Motorcycle Safety Representative**
  - **Did Not Know Deceased was a Rider**
  - **Rosters Outdated/Poorly Maintained**
  - **No Process in Place to Identify New Riders**
  - **Not on In-processing Checklist**

Recommendations

- **Consider the Implementation/Use of a Sport Bike Course**
  - **Andrews AFB did not have a sport bike course**
  - **Little Rock AFB does have a sport bike course**
- **Reinforce the Responsibility and Accountability of Supervisors**
- **SQ/CCs Must Really Dig into Each Program and Make Them Yours**

Wrap up

- **Squadron Commander comments**

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